

HISTORY OF CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION IN COLORADO



1950s—Pueblo Army Depot begins storage of chemical weapons containing mustard agent.

1986—Public law designates the U.S. Army responsible for the destruction of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile.

1993—Citizens' Advisory Commissions are created for each stockpile site in the country.

1996—September. Pueblo Chemical Depot Community Outreach Office opens. Congress establishes Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment (ACWA) Program to identify and demonstrate alternatives to incineration.



April—The United States ratifies the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty, which directs all member nations to destroy their chemical weapons and production facilities.

May—ACWA begins public participation process known as the ACWA Dialogue.

1997



March—Final Environmental Impact Statement is issued for Colorado.

June—Working Groups, as part of the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission, are established to provide feedback on the chemical weapons destruction project.

July—Department of Defense selects neutralization followed by biotreatment as the official destruction method for the Colorado stockpile.

September—The Bechtel Pueblo Team is awarded a contract to design, build and operate the pilot facility.

2002



July—Community submits recommendations on acceleration options.

September—ACWA accepts and incorporates community recommendations.

2003



July/August—Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit is issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Certificate of Designation is issued by Pueblo County. Site civil work can begin.

September—Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Groundbreaking Open House for Stage One construction is held. Design of processing facilities is suspended while cost reduction measures are evaluated.

2004



January—Stage One construction is suspended while cost reduction measures are evaluated.

March—Design and construction restart. ACWA is directed to reduce life-cycle cost.

April—ACWA and Bechtel Pueblo Team start public involvement process for cost-reduction design options.

2005